

male relatives and that a number of experts on Panchayati Raj, who attended a one-day seminar at Bakshi-ka-Talab recently said the dependence of mahila gram pradhans on their menfolk eventually forced the government to issue an order forbidding husbands and brothers of women gram pradhans from attending meetings.

However, several studies conducted by research organisations in many other States indicate that a large preponderance of women Gram Pradhans are no longer influenced by male relatives and they have proved to be effective leaders capable of taking independent decisions.

(c) The Central Government, taking note of the fact that it is for the first time that women have been elected to the Panchayats, have advised States/UTs to take special steps for capacity building of women Members and Chairpersons of Panchayats. The Central Government had also requested State Governments to ensure that meeting of Gram Panchayats are attended only by those who are so elected and by none else (i.e. husband, brother, father or any other category of relative should not be allowed to participate in such meetings) and to issue necessary guidelines to Panchayats at all levels to ensure that women Members of PRIs are not reduced to mere proxies or figureheads.

Computerisation of Land Records

1916. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need to computerise land records in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) the budgetary provision made to each State to computerise land records; and
- (d) the progress made in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records was started in the year 1988-89 with 100% financial assistance as a Pilot Project in 8 States with the objective that land owners should get computerised copies of their Record of Rights. At present it is being implemented in 569 districts covering 2383 tehsils/4aluk.vblocks in the country. Under the programme of the operationalisation of the scheme, funds are released to the State Governments for purchase of software, hardware and other peripherals.

(c) State-wise budget allocation is not made under the scheme. The proposals received from the States/Union Territories from time to time are examined and funds released to them as per the guidelines. So far a total amount of Rs. 189.21 crores has been released to the States/UTs.

(d) A Statement showing State-wise progress of districts covered and tehsils/blocks operationalised, is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Districts covered under Computerisation of Land records

SI. No	Name of the State/UT.	Number of districts covered	tehsil/taluks/ blocks operationalised
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	23	308
2	Arunachal Pradesh	14	—
3	Assam	23	27
4	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	55	—
5	Gujarat	25	114
6	Goa	2	2
7	Haryana	19	64

1	3	3	4
8	Himachal Pradesh	12	16
9	Jammu & Kashmir	14	—
10	Karnataka	27	177
11	Kerala	14	—
12	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	61	354
13	Maharashtra	35	305
14	Manipur	9	—
15	Mizoram	7	—
16	Nagaland	8	—
17	Orissa	30	28
18	Punjab	17	—
19	Rajasthan	32	171
20	Sikkim	4	8
21	Tamil Nadu	29	206
22	Tripura	4	14
23	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	83	235
24	West Bengal	18	354
25	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—
26	NCT of Delhi	1	—
27	Pondicherry	1	—
28	Chandigarh	1	—
Total		569	2383

Depletion of Sub-soil water level in various States

1917. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of Consultative Committee of Parliament on Rural Development have expressed serious concern at the rapidly depleting sub-soil water level in various States;

(t^v if so. Government's reaction thereto;